

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-Five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for the News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Editorial Board: "California and Western Medicine."

At the 290th meeting of the Council of the California Medical Association held on February 23, 1941, a resolution was approved, providing for the appointment of an editorial board. (See minutes in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, April, 1941, on page 232, item 17). At Del Monte, on May 7, 1941, the Council took further action, as noted in item 3 of the minutes of the 293rd meeting of the Council. (Owing to lack of space in the current issue, minutes of the four meetings of the Council, held at the Del Monte annual session, must be held over for the July issue of the *Official Journal*). The excerpt concerning the editorial board follows:

Nominations for Editorial Board.—The special subcommittee, consisting of Councilors Moody, Packard, and Best, submitted their nominations for the Editorial Board. Several changes were suggested, after which, upon motion duly made and seconded, the revised list was adopted and the Chairman of the Council was authorized to proceed in accordance with the original resolution providing for the institution of an editorial board. The personnel and officers of the Editorial Board follow:

Chairman of the Board:

George D. Barnett

Executive Committee:

Sumner Everingham, Oakland, Chairman.
Mast Wolfsohn, Monterey.
Albert J. Scholl, Los Angeles.
George W. Walker, Fresno.
Chauncey D. Leake, San Francisco.

Anesthesiology:

Charles F. McCuskey, Glendale.
H. R. Hathaway, San Francisco.

Dermatology and Syphilology:

H. J. Templeton, Oakland.
William H. Goeckerman, Los Angeles.

Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat:

Frederick C. Cordes, San Francisco.
L. G. Hunnicutt, Pasadena.
George W. Walker, Fresno.

General Medicine:

George D. Barnett, San Francisco.
George H. Houck, Los Angeles.
Mast Wolfson, Monterey.

General Surgery (including Orthopedics):

Frederick C. Bost, San Francisco.
Clarence J. Berne, Los Angeles.
Sumner Everingham, Oakland.

Industrial Medicine and Surgery:

Richard O. Schofield, Sacramento.
Delos Packard Thurber, Los Angeles.

Plastic Surgery:

George W. Pierce, San Francisco.
William S. Kiskadden, Los Angeles.

Neuropsychiatry:

John B. Doyle, Los Angeles.
Olga Bridgman, San Francisco.

Obstetrics and Gynecology:

Erle Henriksen, Los Angeles.
Daniel G. Morton, San Francisco.

Pediatrics:

William A. Reilly, San Francisco.
William W. Belford, San Diego.

Pathology and Bacteriology:

David A. Wood, San Francisco.
R. J. Pickard, San Diego.

Radiology:

R. R. Newell, San Francisco.
Henry J. Ullmann, Santa Barbara.

Urology:

Lewis Michelson, San Francisco.
Albert J. Scholl, Los Angeles.

Pharmacology:

Chauncey D. Leake, San Francisco.
Clinton H. Thienes, Los Angeles.

Oakland Man Medical Group Vice-President: Dr. Charles A. Dukes Elected at Cleveland; Dr. F. W. Rankin Chosen to Head Association.—The San Francisco *Examiner* of June 6 printed the following Associated Press dispatch:

Cleveland, June 5.—Dr. Fred Wharton Rankin of Lexington, Kentucky, was named president-elect of the American Medical Association at a meeting of its House of Delegates today. He will succeed Dr. Frank H. Lahey in 1942.

Dr. Charles A. Dukes of Oakland, was chosen vice-president to serve during the current year, succeeding Dr. Parke G. Smith of Cincinnati. St. Louis was selected as the 1944 convention city.

Other general officers of the Association were reelected. They include Dr. Olin West, Chicago, secretary; Dr. Herman L. Kretschmer, Chicago, treasurer; Dr. H. H. Shoulters, Nashville, speaker of the house of delegates, and R. W. Fouts, Omaha, vice-speaker.

Section chairmen elected today were: Dr. Roy W. Scott, Cleveland, practice of medicine; Dr. Haven Emerson, New York, preventive and industrial medicine; Dr. James A. Dickson, Cleveland, orthopedic surgery; Dr. Arthur W. Allen, Boston, general and abdominal surgery; Dr. Phillip M. Stimson, New York, pediatrics; and Dr. Wallace M. Yater, Washington, pharmacology and therapeutics.

Change of Titles on Two Publications.—Beginning with the issue of April 19, 1941, the title of the current publication, *Weekly Health Index*, of the Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Washington, was changed to *Weekly Mortality Index*. At the same time, the title of the current publication, *Weekly Accident Bulletin*, was changed to *Motor Vehicle Accident Deaths*.

The American Laryngological, Rhinological, and Otological Society, Inc.—The American Laryngological, Rhinological, and Otological Society, Inc., will hold its annual meeting at the Ambassador Hotel at Los Angeles, June 16, 17, 18, 1941.

This will be the first time the triological has ever met in Los Angeles.

The president of the Society is Dr. J. Mackenzie Brown of Los Angeles, and Dr. Robert C. Martin of 384 Post Street, San Francisco, is vice-president of the Western Section.

G. C. Pardee, M. D., Formerly Governor of California.—Climaxing fifty-two years of public service in the East Bay and throughout California, Dr. George C. Pardee, eighty-four, ex-governor of the state, resigned today from his posts as president of the East Bay Utility District and as a member of the Oakland Port Commission.

He will be succeeded as president of the Utility District by Grant D. Miller.

Formerly an eye, ear, nose, and throat specialist, Doctor Pardee was governor of the state from 1903 to 1906. He won commendation when he took personal charge of relief measures following the San Francisco fire of 1906.

He began his official career as mayor of Oakland in 1893, and served as regent of the University of California in 1898. Ill health was given as the reason for his resignation.—San Francisco *Call-Bulletin*, May 15, 1941.

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the daily press on matters related to medical practice follow:

American Medical Association President Scores Critics' Attacks

Cleveland, June 2 (AP).—The American Medical Association today was exhorted to defend its policies against "destructive criticism by authors whose mental processes seem to have been influenced by Moscow or Berlin."

Retiring President Nathan B. Van Etten of New York accused certain "special interest groups" of attacking the American Medical Association as "a selfish, reactionary, antisocial, restraining influence, opposing activities of those desiring to practice group medicine."

"The old idle talk about a small group of persons dictating the policy of the American Medical Association still goes on," he declared before the American Medical Association House of Delegates at the opening of the association's ninety-second annual meeting.

Defends Executives

He reported three American Medical Association executives have been called a "triumvirate of dictators," and identified the three as Dr. Olin West, treasurer; Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor, and Dr. Will C. Braun, business manager, of the American Medical Association journal.

"I have never heard or seen any of them attempt to originate any policy," he commented.

A survey showing 95 per cent of the nation's physicians willing to support military service was cited as evidence of the association's integrity.

Boosts Free Choice Policy

The association's controversial policy of "free choice of physician" was reported to have stood the test of seven turbulent years.

"Some self-esteemed persons," Doctor Van Etten said, "have admitted freedom to choose a doctor is quite right for themselves as they carried their arthritis to Philadelphia or Boston, their surgery to outstanding operators and their eyes to the best ophthalmologists."

"Their denial of the value of free choice applies only to other less fortunate people. Mass medicine is wonderful for everybody except themselves. They would prescribe but cannot swallow their own medicine."

The House of Delegates was called upon to fight for the establishment of a national health department to be headed by an officer of cabinet rank.—Sacramento *Bee*.

Action Is Proposed to Fill Medical Needs

Chicago, June 2 (AP).—The executive council of the Association of American Medical Colleges announced today it is submitting to member institutions three recommendations on procedure aimed at helping the medical needs of the national emergency.

In each instance the council advised that the steps be taken "without lowering standards of medical education." The recommendations were:

1. Increase the enrollment of the 1941 entering class by 10 per cent.
2. Continue the required medical training of the fourth year during the summer of 1941 in order to graduate at an earlier date as many students as possible.
3. Study the need for and possibility of revising the schedule of instruction in medical colleges with a view to accelerating the output of graduates during the national emergency.

Dr. Russell H. Oppenheimer, dean of the school of medicine of Emory University of Atlanta, Ga., is chairman of the council.—Sacramento *Bee*.

Medical Groups Must Pay Fines in Antitrust Case* Sentences Are Imposed for Restraint Against Health Society

Washington, May 29 (AP).—Justice James M. Proctor of the district court today fined the American Medical Association \$2,500 and the District of Columbia Medical Society \$1,500 for violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

* American Medical Association House of Delegates in Cleveland, June 4, 1941, voted to appeal the case.

The American Medical Association and the district society were found guilty of conspiracy to violate the act on April 4. At the same time eighteen physicians, including five officials of the American Medical Association, were exonerated.

In Health Group Case

In the trial attorneys of the justice department argued the two groups and the physicians conspired to obstruct the activities of Group Health Association, a federation of government employees organized to provide coöperative medical care.

They charged the association and its affiliated societies "concertedly restrained twelve Washington hospitals" by refusing the Group Health doctors the privilege of practicing in the hospitals and brought pressure to bear to prevent other physicians from consulting with the Group Health physicians.

Denied Obstruction

Officials of the two associations denied they had in any way obstructed Group Health activities and said their only interest was to assure that adequate medical care be provided under that or any other medical insurance plan.

The case hinged on whether the practice of medicine is a "trade" as defined in the Sherman Anti-Trust Act or a "learned profession" not subject to the same control as are business organizations. Justice Proctor in his original decision in the case declared it is not a trade, but he was reversed and a new trial ordered.—Sacramento *Bee*.

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Everyone Is Vitrally Concerned

On Friday, April 4, a Federal Grand Jury in Washington, D. C., found the American Medical Association guilty of "a criminal conspiracy to restrain trade." The decision has been appealed, and it is estimated that at least two years will pass before the final word is said by the Supreme Court. In the meantime, every citizen is vitally concerned with the issues at stake.

The principal issue is simply this: The right of physicians to control and influence the qualifications of hospital staffs, and to determine education and ethical standards for the rendering of medical care. That is a matter which has to do with the health and physical well-being of us all. Here in the United States, the quality of medical care has reached a level unequalled anywhere else in the world. Here in the United States, the average doctor is far better qualified to treat the sick than his counterpart in any other country. Here in the United States, astounding progress has been made by the medical fraternity in fighting the great scourges of mankind.

That has been the product of the American medical system. It is a system whereby the medical fraternity itself has had the basic right to control the training of internes, to establish standards of qualifications, and to see to it that the men who staff hospitals are able to properly care for the patients that come to them.

Those rights have been considered essential to the safeguarding of the public.

Is the medical profession to be forced to discard systems of ethics, codes of conduct, and standards of qualifications which have grown through the years in response to public need? That is the grave question which this case raises.—Editorial in the *Napa Register*, May 27, 1941.

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Board Dismisses Four Kern County Hospital Officials

Investigation of Kern General Hospital by unbiased outside authorities in the field of public medicine was ordered by the Board of Supervisors today at a tumultuous morning session which also brought the dismissal of four officials of the hospital. . . .

Supervisor A. W. Noon of Taft moved for the dismissal of the quartet after he had risen to a point of personal privilege to explain that he was in accord with Dr. Joe Smith, chief health officer, in so far as Doctor Smith operated the hospital "in the interest of the public" and in so far as Doctor Smith "abided by the recommendations of the supervisors."

Supervisor Ralph Lavin made the motion for the hospital study. . . .—Bakersfield *Californian*, June 2, 1941.

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Doctors Raise New Issue

American Medical Association Group Wants Women Physicians Kept Out of Military Service

Cleveland, June 3 (AP).—The American Medical Association's House of Delegates, ruling body of American medicine, today recommended that women physicians be barred from active or reserve service in the Army and Naval Medical Corps.